

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2007

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RO, EC

SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO ROMANIA

1. ECONOMIC MATTERS WERE IN FOREFRONT OF ECUADOREAN PRESIDENT RODRIQUEZ LARA'S MARCH 7-11 VISIT TO ROMANIA. COMMUNIQUE AND AGREEMENTS SIGNED POINT TOWARD EXPANDED COOPERATION IN FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FOOD-PROCESSING; GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION AND MINING; CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS; PETRO-CHEMICALS AND WOOD-PROCESSING. ACCORDING TO A LARA STATEMENT, PRIORITY IN DISCUSSIONS WAS ACCORDED TO COOPERATION IN FIELD OF PETROLEUM, WITH A JOINT ROMANIAN-ECUADOREAN PETROLEUM SERVICES ORGANIZATION (TO ASSIST ECUADOR IN ITS EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION ACTIVITIES) IS TO BE ESTABLISHED "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". FIRST SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION WILL BE HELD DURING THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

2. IN SPEECHES AND TOASTS, THIRD-WORLD SOLIDARITY WAS PLAYED UP BY BOTH SIDES, WITH CEUSESCU EXPANDING THE GOR'S DEFINITION SOMEWHAT BY LUMPING TOGETHER "DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,

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SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED COUNTRIES AND THE NON-ALIGNED". LARA

ALSO DWELT AT SOME LENGTHS ON THE NORTH-SOUTH, RICH-POOR GAP EXISTING IN WORLD. AS EXPECTED, THE COMMUNIQUE EMPHASIZED NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY, INCLUDING SUPPORT OF THE UN CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES. SOLIDARITY IS PLEDGED FOR FIGHT OF LATIN AMERICANS AND OTHERS TO RID THEMSELVES OF "ANY KIND OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE". ALSO PAST AND PRESENT DISARMAMENT EFFORTS ARE SUPPORTED, PARTICULARLY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN DENUCLEARIZED ZONE, AND ROMANIAN ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE THE SAME IN THE BALKANS.

3. VISIT WAS GIVEN THE REQUISITE AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY AT ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING THE RENAMING OF A BUCHAREST SQUARE (INTER-SECTED BY PARIS, PRAGUE AND WARSAW STREETS) AS "QUITO" SQUARE. THE ROMANIAN MILITARY APPEARED TO BE MORE IN EVIDENCE THAN IS NORMAL FOR SUCH A VISIT, PERHAPS DUE TO PRESIDENT LARA'S OWN BACKGROUND.

4. COMMENT. WE ARE TOLD BY ONE LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT THAT THE ROMANIANS WERE EVEN MORE AGGRESSIVE THAN USUAL IN ATTEMPTING TO PUSH THEIR EXPORT WARES, PARTICULARLY AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, WITHOUT SHOWING MUCH WILLINGNESS TO IMPORT IN RETURN. THE SAME SOURCE INDICATED SKEPTICISM (WHICH WE SHARE) ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF MEANINGFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCORDS AND AGREEMENTS SIGNED.

5. WE ALSO NOTE THAT THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN A WEEK (OTHER WAS MARCH 6 ELECTORAL SPEECH) THAT CEAUSESCU HAS LINKED THE DEVELOPING, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES (A SOMEWHAT ALTERED FORM OF THE OLD APPEAR FOR ROMANIAN AND THIRD WORLD SOLIDARITY), PERHAPS ON THE RATIONALE THAT IF GOR CAN'T JOIN ONE CLUB, I.E., THE NON-ALIGNED, BEST THING TO DO IS CHANGE THE NAME, EXPAND THE MEMBERSHIP AND HOPE FOR BETTER LUCK IN THE FUTURE. THE NEW PHRASEOLOGY ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTS ROMANIA'S OWN INTENSIFIED SEARCH FOR MARKETS AND RAW MATERIALS AMONG THIS GROUPING OF COUNTRIES.

BARNES

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